

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

HB 686 – SB 645

April 17, 2017

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Requires any person convicted of illegally registering to vote or illegally voting to pay a fine of \$5,000 in addition to any other punishment imposed. Creates a reward of \$5,000 for any person whose report of voter fraud leads to a conviction.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (004393): Deletes and replaces language in the original bill to decrease, from \$5,000 to \$1,000, both the fine assessed and the reward.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Fines assessed will be collected by the court clerk, remitted to the State Treasurer, and deposited into the Reward Pool Fund, within the state General Fund, created pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-8-105.
- A reward of \$1,000, paid from the Reward Pool Fund, will be awarded to any person whose report of voter fraud results in a conviction.
- According to information provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts, there were four convictions for offenses related to illegally registering to vote or illegally voting, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-19-107, in 2015 and 2016.
- Approximately four convictions for illegal voter registration or illegal voting will occur annually.
- It is estimated that one of four persons convicted each year of voter fraud will pay the fine assessed and only one of four convictions each year will be a direct result of an individual's report of voter fraud resulting in a reward paid to the person reporting; any net recurring impact on the Reward Pool Fund is estimated to be not significant.

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CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

/jrh